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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage container for rigid control of access by users

5 comprising:

a housing;

a cover hingedly attached to the housing;

a lock incorporated into the cover for locking the cover to the housing;

10 the lock being programmed to automatically reset to the locked mode when the cover is opened and to immediately lock the cover to the housing upon closure;

programming means for controlling the lock for defining periods of accessibility and inaccessability and;

15 a power supply for providing electric power to the programming means.

2. A container according to claim 1 wherein the lock comprises an electro-mechanical mechanism.

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3. A container according to claim 2 wherein the mechanism comprises one or more retractable bolts.

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4. A container according to claim 3 wherein the lock comprises two reciprocating bolts which move in opposite directions to lock the cover to the housing.

5. A container according to claim 1 wherein the cover is detachable from the housing.

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6. A container according to claim 5 wherein the cover includes shaped protrusions extending from one side of the cover.

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- 1 7. A container according to claim 6 wherein the housing includes detents for receiving and gripping the protrusions on the cover.
- 5 8. A container according to claim 2 wherein the engagement of the protrusions and detents is by means of a snap fit.
- 10 9. A container according to claim 4 wherein the rim of the housing includes receptacles adapted to receive the reciprocating bolts.
- 15 10. A container accounting to claim 1 wherein the programming means is a programmable microprocessor operatively connected to the cover.
- 20 11. A container according to claim 10 wherein the programming means includes a processor assembly incorporating the microprocessor, an electronic memory, control keys, and a display for receiving and displaying the parameters incorporated into the container.
- 25 12. A container according to claim 8 wherein the housing and cover include mutually engaging stops to prevent travel of the cover more than 70° from the closed position.
- 30 13. A container according to claim 8 wherein the hinged connection is configured to limit travel of the cover and to return to the closed position under the force of gravity.
- 35 14. A container according to claim 4 wherein the bolts are spring-loaded.

- 1 15. A container according to claim 14 wherein the bolts retract at the predetermined programmed intervals under the control of the user.
- 5 16. A container according to claim 15 wherein the bolts extend and engage the housing upon closure of the cover onto the housing.
- 10 17. A container according to claim 1 wherein the power supply is incorporated into the programmable processor assembly.
- 15 18. A container according to claim 17 wherein the power supply is only accessible when the cover is in the open position.
- 20 19. A programmable, automatically closing, and automatically locking storage container for rigid control of access to its contents by users, comprising:
 a housing;
 a cover, said cover being attached to said housing by hinged moldings;
 a computer controlled lock incorporated into the cover for locking the cover to the housing to prevent unauthorized access to the contents of the container;
 the lock being configured to automatically reset to the locked mode when the cover is opened and to immediately lock the cover to the housing upon the closure of the cover;
 a programmable computer incorporated into the container for controlling the lock, said programmable computer being programmed to accept and store multiple variables and parameters for defining periods of accessibility and inaccessibility of variable duration; and
 a power supply that can be accessed only when the cover is in the open position.
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